

REMARKS

This Amendment addresses the issues outstanding from the final Office Action dated September 14, 2006.

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejections, independent Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate aspects of Claims 2 and 3, and independent Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to incorporate aspects of Claim 3. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled accordingly. Additionally, Claims 1, 6, and 7 have been amended to set forth certain distinctive features of Applicants' invention with more particularity. Specifically, each of independent Claims 1, 6, and 7 has been amended to recite that a cam is formed on the second press block such that the cam and the second press block constitute a single integral body. See, e.g., page 14, lines 9-21. As will be discussed below, at least as presently claimed, Applicants' invention distinguishes patentably from the prior art.

Independent Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ikeda et al. (U.S. 6,467,807 B2). Further, independent Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda in view of JP2588338 (JP '338).

In addition to its apparent deficiency with respect to the above-discussed feature of Applicants' invention, Ikeda neither discloses nor suggests first and second press blocks slidably held within a bore, as recited in Claims 1, 6, and 7 as previously presented (and as currently presented). Moreover, JP '338 fails to teach or suggest the amendatory feature presently added to the claims. Accordingly, each of the aforementioned rejections should be withdrawn.

Independent Claim 1 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsumoto (JP 2002-166835). Further, independent Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of JP '338. However, it is apparent that Matsumoto exhibits the same deficiencies relative to Applicants' invention as were discussed above in connection with Ikeda.

As is the case with Ikeda, Matsumoto neither discloses nor suggests first and second press blocks slidably held within a bore. Nor does either of Matsumoto or JP '338 teach or suggest the presently claimed arrangement of a cam formed on the second press block such that the cam and the second press block constitute a single integral body.

Claims 1, 6, and 7 thus distinguish patentability from Matsumoto and JP '338. The rejections based on those references should be withdrawn accordingly.

In view of the present amendments and the above discussion, this application is clearly in condition for allowance and should now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10008) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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